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The Council of Seventy.

THE COUNCIL OF SEVENTY desires to announce a new series of reading courses, to commence October 1, to be conducted by the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE. These will be included under the *Bible Students' Reading Guild*, which for the present will drop its popular courses and present work for ministers and professional Bible students only. (It should be explained that the popular courses are dropped only for the present, and will be resumed as soon as a sufficient number of appropriate books have been published.)

No "times and seasons" will be observed in these ministerial courses. Any one of them may be taken up at any time, pursued in part or to its conclusion, as preferred. No examinations or requirements will hamper the student, but provisions for reports upon, and credit for, work will be made. The number of subjects taken up will not be limited; but for the present only eight are announced. The topics of these first eight courses have been chosen rather as fundamental than with a view to their popularity. They are: (1) "The Historical and Literary Origin of the Pentateuch," (2) "Old Testament Prophecy," (3) "The Origin and Growth of the Hebrew Psalter," (4) "The Life of the Christ," (5) "The Apostolic Age," (6) "The Problems connected with the Gospel of John," (7) "Christianity and Social Problems," (8) "The Preparation of Sermons."

Each course will contain six or more books, selected first by each member of the Council of Seventy, and then by a committee of the Council, who shall from the results of this composite judgment make the final choice. Upon all topics generally conceded to be in controversy the best authorities on both sides will be provided. The courses will in no case stand for a particular school of thought, but will be planned to present all sides impartially.

The books will all be furnished by the Institute. They will be (*a*) sold at a special price, or (*b*) loaned on a deposited price, which will be refunded to the student when the book is returned, less the cost of carriage and a small per cent. for handling.

Each book sent out will be accompanied by a carefully prepared review covering the following points: (*a*) a general introduction to the

contents of the book; (*b*) an estimate of the value of the book as a whole; (*c*) specific points in which it is open to criticism, or specially worthy of commendation; (*d*) the names of other authorities on the same subject, with notes upon their special views; (*e*) a series of questions which should bring out the above points. These reviews will be prepared by members of the Council, and others.

In order that, while studying and reading along a *special* line, the student may keep in touch with the best *general* current thought in biblical fields, the annual membership fee will entitle him to a year's subscription to the *American Journal of Theology* or the BIBLICAL WORLD, as he prefers. With the former the fee will be $3, with the latter $2. (It will be noted that these sums represent the *regular subscription prices* of these periodicals, so that to receive the privileges of the Guild really requires no extra fee.) Four or more articles from foreign periodicals (translations) will be sent as supplements during the year. It is clear that the expense of the work will be so light that a minister or Bible teacher will be able to secure the best books the year round, accompanied by helpful reading suggestions, at a very small expenditure. The plan is designed to be so flexible that a student wishing to enter upon a course of theological and biblical reading extending over a period of years, and desiring to receive some special direction in this reading, may submit his case to the Institute for such direction. Each case will be considered individually, an appropriate course suggested, and all necessary advice given.

In conclusion, this scheme will give to the professional Bible student an opportunity (1) to secure a consensus of opinion upon the most important literature on the subjects connected with his work; (2) to obtain temporarily the use of books thus wisely selected; (3) to build up his own library under most competent advisers; (4) to have at hand in his reading a carefully prepared review which he may annotate and keep for future reference; (5) to keep in touch with the best current thought in periodicals, both American and foreign; (6) to secure advice along lines of special reading not in the courses announced; (7) to do all this at a very small annual expense.

The books to be used in the subjects announced above will be selected during the summer. They will be loaned to those applying *in the order of their registration.* Preliminary announcements and registration blanks may be secured by addressing THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE, HYDE PARK, CHICAGO, ILL.